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COTTONWOOD MAN GUILTY OF ASSAULTING A CENSUS WORKER

United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that Jimmy L. Gettings, 51, of Cottonwood, California was convicted today of one count of assaulting a federal employee, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 111. The guilty verdict was returned by a federal court jury in Sacramento after a 7-day trial before United States District Judge William B. Shubb.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laurel White, who prosecuted the case, the evidence introduced at trial showed that on May 11th of last year, Gettings assaulted 68-year old Beverly Wilson, of Anderson, California. At the time of the assault, Mrs. Wilson was an employee with the United States Census Bureau and had been assigned to go to Gettings' residence to collect information about the occupants of his home to include in the 2000 Census. According to testimony, Gettings wouldn't let Wilson ask her questions. As she tried to explain the importance of participating in the Census, Gettings grabbed her arm, dragged her to her car, and violently shoved her in the car, and told her not to leave.

Upon return of the guilty verdict, the court remanded Gettings to custody. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on January 9, 2002, before United States District Judge William

B. Shubb.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Redding office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.